

Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition

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Opium

First used in Mesopotamia 6000 years ago
as an analgesic, antitussive, antidiarrheal, euphoric

Opioid Pharmacology

Opioids bond to specific receptors in the brain

Opioids are similar to “natural” Endorphins

Opioids are more powerful and longer acting than Endorphins



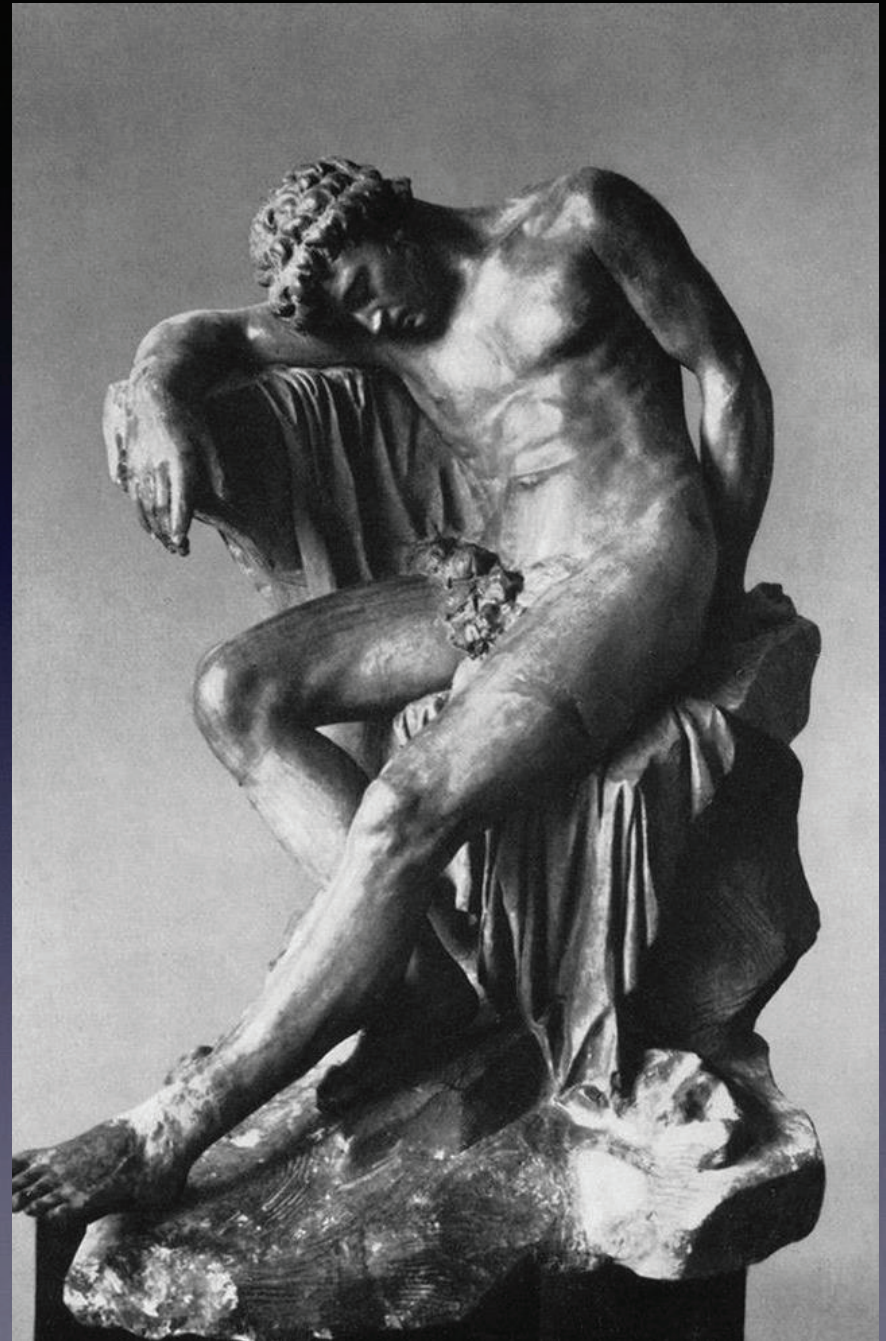
Synthetic Opioids

Morphine extracted from
opium in 1805

Codeine synthesized in 1839

Heroin manufactured by
Bayer in 1874

Fentanyl created in 1959





Tolerance

Decreased subjective and objective effects to the same amount of drug over time requiring increasing the amount to achieve the same effect

Dependence

Signs and symptoms that occur with cessation of the drug

Addiction

A *CHRONIC DISEASE* of the brain manifested by *compulsive* substance use despite harmful consequences. 75% of people with addiction have mental illness

Addiction: Permanent Rewiring

Requires Life-long treatment

Brain's “wiring” altered permanently

Judgment, decision making, learning,
memory, behavioral control ALL
changed

Any person can develop addiction





Risks for Addiction

Personal or Family History of any substance abuse - including alcohol

History of childhood sexual abuse

Psychological Disorders: ADD, ADHD, OCD, Bipolar disease,
Depression

Stress: Emotional, Financial, Pain, Injury

Gaston Controlled Substances Coalition

- Established in July 2016 by the Gaston Together Healthcare Commission
- Funded by CaroMont Health, Gaston County DHHS, Gaston Family Health Services, Partners Behavioral Health Management; and with grants from Austin's Opioid Education Fund and The Community Foundation of Gaston County.
- Coalition has 80+ members and meets bimonthly.
- Committees, subcommittees and groups meet monthly.

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Prevent onset of addiction to controlled substances

- Medication take-back at churches and community events with County Police Department and Sheriff's Office.
- Community presentations to >1,500 individuals including middle/high school teachers/coaches and at the Manager's Opioid Summit in 2018.
- Organizing a year-long Opioid Education Campaign with Gaston College.
- Launching a program to help houses of worship address opioids (April 2019).

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Adoption of Safe Opioid Prescribing Practices

- *Responding to the Opioid Challenge: Best Practices for Responsible Opioid Prescribing* (October 2016).
- *Managing Pain in the Age of the Opioid Crisis* (January 2019).

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Promote delivery of comprehensive drug treatment and behavioral health services

- Opioid Overdose Response Team: With CaroMont Health and GEMS, helps reduce the risk for subsequent overdoses by recipients of Narcan recipients.
- Launching Opioid Prevention and Treatment Champions Program with area businesses (May 2019).

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